

Remarks/Arguments

The Office Action mailed April 2, 2008 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 1-16 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-6 and 13 stand allowable. Claims 1-16 are now pending in this application.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. It should be noted that the Applicants are not conceding in this application that the amended claims in their prior form are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments have been made only to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the application. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Claims 1 and 4-16 stand objected to for various informalities. The claims have been amended in a way believed to overcome the objections. As such, claims 1 and 13 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,203) in view of Willemsen (U.S. Patent No. 3,649,864).

Claim 7 of the present application recites, inter alia:

a translucent, electrically conductive first screening which screens the discharge vessel and comprises connection means for providing an at least high-frequency connection between the first screening and a second screening of an electrical system used for operating the gas discharge lamp so as to form

a coaxial screening system enclosing the discharge vessel with the electrodes during operation of the gas discharge lamp, wherein the first screening of the gas discharge lamp serves as a power supply line and is electrically connected to one of the electrodes.

Kim discloses a lamp apparatus for use with a liquid crystal display. The apparatus described in Kim includes lamps, supply lines and a grounded housing. Kim does not however, disclose or remotely suggest that the grounded housing is a screening that acts as a power supply line. To cure the deficiencies of Kim, the Examiner cites Willemsen.

Willemsen describes a lamp apparatus that includes a self-ballasting capacitor (see, e.g., Willemsen, Abstract; elements 6, 10, 11, FIG. 1) that acts as an electrode of the lamp (see, e.g., Willemsen, column 3, lines 42-54). An electrically conductive transparent layer (Willemsen, 9, FIG. 1), serving as a capacitor plate, is included on an outer surface of a lamp envelope (Willemsen, 6, FIG. 1) and is connected to a power supply terminal (Willemsen, 1, FIG. 1) (see, e.g., Willemsen, Column 3, lines 4-7, lines 13-15 and lines 32-35). The opposing plate of the capacitor (Willemsen, 11, FIG. 1) is included on an inner surface of the envelope (Willemsen, 6, FIG. 1) and acts as an electrode within the lamp (see, e.g., Willemsen, column 3, lines 19-21 and lines 42-54). The self-ballasting capacitor is employed to stabilize the electric discharge in the lamp (see, e.g., Willemsen, Abstract; column 4, lines 44-49).

Willemsen does not disclose or remotely render obvious a screening that serves as a power supply line, as recited in claim 7. The capacitor (Willemsen, 9, FIG 1) on the envelope of the lamp does not act as a screening. Indeed, during operation, the outer capacitor plate (Willemsen, FIG. 9) would emit high frequency radiation and does not in

any way shield the environment, as it does not provide an outlet for high frequency currents.

Furthermore, combination of Willemsen with Kim by one of ordinary skill in the art would not result in a screening that acts as a power supply line. First, Willemsen teaches that its lamp is intended to be used in within a housing that is not shown in the figures (see, e.g., Willemsen, Column 3, lines 55-56). Combination with Kim would yield a lamp with the capacitor plates enclosed within a grounded housing described in Kim; the housing would not in any way serve as a supply line. Second, even if one of ordinary skill in the art would employ a capacitor plate on a grounded housing described in Kim, the resulting housing would not act as a screening because high frequency radiation would be emitted from the plate. Thus, in view of the references, a screening that acts as a power supply line would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Accordingly, claim 7 is believed to be patentable over Kim and Willemsen, taken singly or in combination, as the references fail to disclose or render obvious employing a screening that serves as a power supply line. Moreover, claim 8 is believed to be patentable over the references due at least to its dependency from claim 7.

In addition, it should be noted that claim 12 is dependent on claim 1. Therefore, claim 12 is believed to be in condition for allowance due at least to its dependency from claim 1. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kim in view of Willemsen in further view of Goldberg (U.S. Patent No. 3,758,819).

Claims 9-11 are dependent from claim 7 and include the feature of a screening that serves as a power supply. As discussed above with regard to claim 7, Kim and Willemsen

do not disclose or render obvious a screening that acts as a power supply. Furthermore, Goldberg fails to cure the deficiencies of Kim and Willemsen.

Goldberg discloses an electrically conducting material (Goldberg, element 4, FIG. 1) that is included on an outer surface of an insulating housing (Goldberg element 7, FIG. 1). The conducting material (Goldberg, element 4, FIG. 1) is connected to a power supply terminal. The conducting material is provided to induce an electric field between it and a wire probe (Goldberg, element 2, FIG. 1) at an opposing electrode that is connected to the other terminal of the power supply. Further, the electric field enables control of discharging within the lamp at precise instances in time (see, e.g., Goldberg, column 1, lines 8-16; column 2, lines 51-69; column 3, lines 10-26).

However, similar to Willemsen, described above, Goldberg does not disclose a screening that serves as a power supply. As illustrated in FIG. 1 of Goldberg, the conducting material (element 4) on the outer housing is merely connected to a power supply terminal and does not provide an outlet for high frequency currents. The conductive material is not any way a screening. Accordingly, claims 9-11 are believed to be patentable over the references at least because they fail to disclose or render obvious the feature of a screening that serves as a power supply.

Regarding claim 14, claim 14 recites inter alia:

wherein the first screening of the gas discharge lamp serves as a supply line and is electrically connected to one of the electrodes,

wherein the at least one of the electrodes is connected to a main supply line, wherein the main supply line is electrically connected to an additional supply line that is branched from the main supply line and is arranged in parallel to and along a length of the first screening, and

wherein an inductive element is included in the additional supply line.

In accordance with one or more implementations of the present principles, for example, as illustrated in FIG. 9, an additional supply line (30) may be branched from a main supply line (16) and may be arranged in parallel to and along the length of a screening (9) of a gas discharge lamp.

As described above, Willemsen and Goldberg fail to disclose a screening. As such, Willemsen and Goldberg do not disclose or render obvious an additional supply line that is both branched from a main supply line and is arranged in parallel to and along the length of a screening of a gas discharge lamp. Furthermore, although Kim discloses a grounded housing, Kim does not disclose or render obvious an additional supply line that is both branched from a main supply line and arranged in parallel to and along the length of a screening of a gas discharge lamp (see, e.g., Kim, FIG. 4).

Thus, because Kim, Willemsen and Goldberg, taken singly or in combination, fail to disclose or render at least the features of claim 14 discussed above, claim 14 is believed to be patentable over the references.

With respect to claim 15, claim 15 includes, inter alia:

a translucent, electrically conductive first screening which screens the discharge vessel . . . wherein the first screening of the gas discharge lamp is coupled to a screening of a lampholder via a capacitive component during operation of the gas discharge lamp.

As described above, Willemsen and Goldberg fail to disclose a screening. As such, Willemsen and Goldberg do not disclose or render obvious a capacitive coupling between a screening of a discharge vessel and a screening of a lamp holder. In addition, while Kim discloses a grounded housing, Kim fails to disclose or render obvious a capacitive coupling between the grounded housing and any other component (see, e.g., Kim, FIG. 4).

Therefore, Kim also fails to describe or render obvious a capacitive coupling between a screening of a discharge vessel and a screening of a lamp holder. Accordingly, at least because the references, taken singly or in combination, fail to disclose or render obvious a capacitive coupling between a screening of a discharge vessel and a screening of a lamp holder, claim 15 is believed to be patentable over the references.

Concerning claim 16, claim 16 recites, inter alia:

wherein the first screening of the gas discharge lamp is connected to another one of the electrodes via a capacitive component.

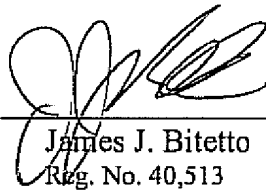
As described above, Willemsen and Goldberg fail to disclose a screening. As such, Willemsen and Goldberg do not disclose or render obvious a screening that is connected to an electrode via a capacitive component. Moreover, although Kim discloses a grounded housing, Kim fails to disclose or render obvious a capacitive connection between the grounded housing and any other component (see, e.g., Kim, FIG. 4). Accordingly, at least because the Kim, Willemsen and Goldberg, taken singly or in combination, fail to disclose or render obvious a screening that is connected to an electrode via a capacitive component, claim 16 is believed to be patentable.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the claims set forth in the Office Action of April 2, 2008 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-16 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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